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Page 1 of 19 PageID 15

Northern District of California 450 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, California 94102

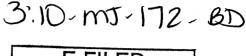
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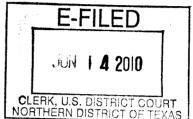
Richard W. Wieking Clerk

General Court Number 415.522.2000

June 8, 2010

Office of the Clerk U.S. District Court 1100 Commerce #1452 Dallas TX 75242





Case Name:

US-v-Alan Todd May

Case Number:

3:10-70464 MAG

Charges:

18:1343 Wire fraud

Dear Clerk:

The above charges originated in your district and the defendant has appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge James Larson. The following action has been taken:

- (X) The U.S. Marshal has been ordered to remove this defendant to your district forthwith.
- () The defendant has a court appearance in your court on:

Enclosed are the following documents:

original Rule 40 affidavit original minute orders certified copy of AO 94, Commitment to Another District

Please acknowledge receipt of the documents on the attached copy of this letter and return in the envelope provided.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD WIEKING, Clerk

by: <u>Lori Murray</u> Case Systems Administrator

Deputy Clerk

Enclosures

cc: Financial Office

Receipt of the above-described documents is acknowledg	ged herewith and assigned case number:
	2
Date:	CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
	n

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FILED

CIVILE STATE	for the	
Northern	District of California	JUN - 7 2010
United States of America v.)) Case No. 3-10-70464 JL	RICHARD W. WIEKING CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
ALAN TODD MAY) Charging District's) Case No. 3:10-MJ-172	
Defendant) Case No. 3.10-1VIJ-172	
COMMITMENT	TO ANOTHER DISTRICT	
The defendant has been ordered to appear in th	e Northern District of	Texas .
The defendant may need an interpreter for this language	e: none	•
The defendant:		
X is requesting court-appoin	nted counsel.	•
The defendant remains in custody after the init	ial appearance.	
IT IS ORDERED: The United States marshal to the charging district and deliver the defendant to the authorized to receive the defendant. The marshal or of United States attorney and the clerk of court for that disbe promptly scheduled. The clerk of this district must	United States marshal for that district ficer in the charging district should im strict of the defendant's arrival so that	or to another officer mediately notify the further proceedings may
Date: Jun 7, 2010	Judge 's signati	ıre
	Joseph C. Spero, United State	es Magistrate Judge

I bereby certify that the annexed instrument is a true and correct copy of the original on file in my office. ATTEST:

RICHARD W. WIEKING Clerk, U.S. District Court Nordern District California

Printed name and title

By O 1 8 Deputy Clerk

rev. 8/31/07 Case 3:10-mj-00172-BD Document 3 Filed 06/14/10 Page 3 of 19 PageID 17

DOCUMENTS UNDER SE	AL 🔲	TOTAL TIME (mins): 4						
MAGISTRATE JUDGE		DEPUTY CLERK			REPORTER/FTR			
MINUTE ORDER MAGISTRATE JUDGE		Frank Justiliano DATE			10:02 - 10:06 NEW CASE CASE NUMBER			
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Alan Todd May		Y	′ P	Rita B	Boswo	rth		APPT.
U.S. ATTORNEY		INTERPR	ETER	•	X	FIN. AFFT		COUNSEL APPT'D
Rob Reese for Tarek Held	ou	none				SUBMITTED		
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Commitment order to Northern District of Texas is signed.

cc:Venice,

4 . !	Case 3:10-mj-00172-BD Document 3	Filed 06/14/10	Page 4 of 19	PageID 18	
. 1	JOSEPH P. RUSSONIELLO (CABN 44332) United States Attorney		A .	FILE JUN 4- 2010	
3 4	BRIAN J. STRETCH (CABN 163973) Chief, Criminal Division		NORTHERN L	ARD W. WIEKIN U.S. DISTRICT COUR DISTRICT OF CALIFOR	
5 6	TAREK J. HELOU (CABN218225) Assistant United States Attorney				
7 8 9	450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36055 San Francisco, California 94102 Telephone: (415) 436-7200 Fax: (415) 436-7234 E-Mail: Tarek.J.Helou@usdoj.gov				
10	Attorneys for the United States				
11	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT				
12	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				
13	SAN FRANC	ISCO DIVISION	10 - 04	7	
14	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	3 CRIMINAL 1	10 7046	34	
15	Plaintiff,				
16	v.	OUT-OF-DIS	PROCEEDINGS (STRICT CRIMINA	Λ L	
17	ALLAN TODD MAY,	5(c)(2) AND	PURSUANT TO R (3) OF THE FEDE		
18	Defendant.	OF CRIMINA	AL PROCEDURE		
19					
20	Please take notice pursuant to Rules 5(c)(2)	and (3) of the Fed	eral Rules of Crim	inal	
21	Procedure that on June 4, 2010, the above-named defendant was arrested based upon an arrest				
22	warrant (copy attached) issued upon an				
23	☐ Indictment				
24	☐ Information				
25	X Criminal Complaint				
26	☐ Other (describe)				
27	pending in the Northern District of Texas, Case	Number 3:10-MJ-	172.		
_				j	

In that case, the defendant is charged with a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.

Description of Charges: The defendant was responsible for an approximately \$7.2 million oil & gas Ponzi scheme with 175 investors. The defendant used his company, Prosper Oil & Gas, in this scheme, which went on for almost two years.

Date: 6/4/10

Respectfully Submitted, JOSEPH P. RUSSONIELLO UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

TAREK J. HELOU Assistant U.S. Attorney

United States District Court

NORTHERN

DISTRICT OF

TEXAS

MAY | 3 2010

CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

ALAN TODD MAY

CASE NUMBER: 3:10-MJ- / 72

I, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about April 25, 2008 through on or about March 2, 2010, in Dallas County, in the Northern District of Texas defendant did,

with the intent to defraud, devise a scheme to cause interstate wire transfers of monetary funds from victim Jon Pope's bank/brokerage accounts to defendant ALAN TODD MAY's bank/brokerage accounts,

in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1343.

I further state that I am a Special Agent of the United States Secret Service and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

See attached Affidavit of Special Agent Christopher S. Walker which is incorporated and made a part hereof by reference.

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof: XX Yes N

Signature of Complainant

CHRISTOPHER S. WALKER

SPECIAL AGENT, U.S. SECRET SERVICE

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, on this 13th day of May, 2010, at Dallas, Texas.

JEFF KAPLAN

<u>UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE</u>

Name & Title of Judicial Officer

grature of Judicial Officer

AFFIDAVIT

I. Christopher S. Walker, having been duly sworn, depose and state the following, which I believe to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

Document 3

Between on or about April 25, 2008 through on or about March 2, 2010, in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas, the defendant, ALAN TODD MAY, aka TODD MAY, did, with intent to defraud, devise a scheme to cause interstate wire transfers of monetary funds from victim Jon Pope's bank/brokerage accounts to bank/brokerage accounts controlled by defendant ALAN TODD MAY, in violation of 18 U.S.C § 1343 (Wire Fraud).

Counts:

- On or about May 1, 2008, victim Jon Pope wired \$17,500 from his Peoples Α. State Bank account #XX1444, located in Colby, Kansas, into defendant ALAN TODD MAY's E-Trade account #XXXX3672, located in Merrifield, Virginia, at the direction of ALAN TODD MAY, through his company, Prosper Oil & Gas, located in Dallas, Texas, for the purchase of oil royalties as part of a Ponzi scheme.
- On or about October 16, 2008, victim Jon Pope wired \$50,000 from his B. Entrust IRA account #XXXX8062, located in Lafayette, Colorado, into a Bank of America account #XXXXXXXXX1585 controlled by defendant ALAN TODD MAY, located in Dallas, Texas, at the direction of ALAN

TODD MAY, through his company, Prosper Oil & Gas, located in Dallas, Texas, for the purchase of oil royalties as part of a Ponzi scheme.

- 1. I am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Secret Service (USSS), currently assigned to the Dallas Field Office, Financial Crimes Unit. I have participated in a variety of fraud investigations ranging from simple single-party investigations to complex conspiracies. I have testified in court concerning identity theft and fraud schemes. In addition to my ten years of first-hand law enforcement experience (five years as an officer with the Dallas Police Department and five years as a Special Agent), I have attended DHS/USSS training regarding the methods and techniques used by individuals to defraud victims using various fraud schemes. I have also received training regarding the money laundering commonly associated with fraud schemes and the seizure of assets from that activity. I am tasked as the Asset Forfeiture Coordinator for the USSS Dallas Field Office.
- 2. The statements contained in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge or from information that I have learned in the course of my investigation, including information from financial institutions, government agencies, witnesses, and others participating in the investigation. This affidavit does not purport to set forth all of my knowledge or investigation concerning this case. I have set forth only those facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to arrest ALAN TODD MAY ("Alan May") for violations of 18 U.S.C. §1343 (Wire Fraud):

- Price. Investigator Burud also stated that Alan May issued check #122 from the same T. Rowe Price account, and that she anticipated that this check also would be returned. Investigator Burud informed me that she conducted "on-line" research of Alan May and
- discovered that Alan May had multiple convictions for fraud, credit card abuse, and issuance of bad checks.
- On December 28, 2009, I met with Jamie Burud at Texas Capital Bank, 2000 McKinney Ave. Ste #700, Dallas, Texas. Burud stated that the second check issued by Alan May, check #122, was, in fact, returned on the closed T. Rowe Price account. Burud also stated that Prosper Oil & Gas, located at 325 North Saint Paul, Suite #1280, Dallas, Texas, buys and sells interest in oil rights in Texas, Colorado, and Oklahoma. After learning of the two returned checks and the criminal history of Alan May, Burud believed that Alan May and Prosper Oil & Gas may be defrauding investors by "cash kiting" the investments.

10 of 19

BACKGROUND OF PROSPER OIL & GAS AND ALAN MAY

- From December 28, 2009 to December 31, 2009, I conducted database record 5. searches on Prosper Oil & Gas, and a criminal record search of Alan May. Records show that Prosper Oil & Gas was formed on April 25, 2008. Alan May and Benjamin Benavidez, both addressed at 3200 Thomas Ave #H, Dallas, Texas, were listed as the two directors of the company.
- A NCIC/NLETS criminal database search revealed that since 1983, Alan May has 6. had six theft by check convictions, two credit card abuse convictions, and two theft convictions. Alan May is currently on Texas state parole related to the multiple felony convictions. An internal USSS records search revealed that Alan May was arrested on November 27, 2002, for issuance of bad check by the USSS Houston Field Office, related to an investment scheme. I also found an article in BusinessWeek, dated October 23, 1995, describing a scheme in which Alan May used the Harris County jail telephone, while an inmate in the jail, to lure unsuspecting exhibitors for a "Women's Business & Health" show to pay him \$600 to \$2,000 for space in the fictitious expo. Alan May solicited investors in the scheme by running ads in the Wall Street Journal and The Dallas Morning News.
- On December 30, 2009, I spoke to Investigator Sheila Weigand, Texas Railroad 7. Commission, who has been an investigator of the oil and gas well industry for over 30 years. Investigator Weigand stated that Prosper Oil & Gas operates 28 oil wells on seven

leases and two gas wells in San Angelo, Texas. Investigator Weigand sampled one lease, Cowden F, located in Ector County, Texas. Investigator Weigand reported that out of nine wells subject to the lease, only seven were producing oil, and according to the production report, Prosper Oil & Gas produced 263 barrels of oil in September 2009, the most recent reported month. At that rate (seven wells producing 263 barrels of oil in a 30-day period), each well only produced about one-and-one-quarter barrels of oil per day. Investigator Weigand described these wells as very marginal producers. Investigator Weigand also advised me that, based on her 30 years of experience, these wells were not

Document 3

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION CASE

producing enough oil to generate a profit.

- 8. On January 4, 2010, I presented the records searches, the interview of Burud, and the interview with Investigator Weigland to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Accountant Ty Martinez.
- 9. The SEC decided to open its own, separate investigation into Prosper Oil & Gas. I provided an open records request to the SEC, so that the SEC's findings may be shared with the USSS.
- 10. Accountant Martinez provided me with account numbers for over 40 business and personal bank accounts and credit cards related to Alan May, Benavidez, and Prosper Oil & Gas. From these 40 accounts, Accountant Martinez identified six main accounts that Prosper Oil & Gas had used to receive investor funds, receive oil and gas revenues, and

make payouts back to investors whom had invested with Prosper Oil & Gas. The six accounts are: Peoples State Bank of Kansas account #XXXX5800; Texas Capital Bank account #XXXXXX8897; Texas Capital Bank account #XXXXXX8574; Capital One Bank account #XXXXXX1640; Capital One Bank account #XXXXXX8926; and Capital One Bank account #XXXXXX8318.

ocument 3

- Accountant Martinez provided me with a summary of the six accounts that he 11. analyzed:
 - Total amount of incoming investor funds: approximately \$6,698,675.32
 - Total amount of oil and gas revenue: approximately \$440,830.98
 - Total amount of investor distributions: approximately \$1,217,155.64
- 12. In summary, Prosper Oil & Gas paid out to investors three times more than the oil and gas revenue that it had received. Accountant Martinez also found substantial payments to individuals identified as "employees" – Kathy Tyler (Alan May's mother), Lauren May (Alan May's daughter), Christopher May (Alan May's brother), and Kimberly Brooks (Alan May's ex-wife) - who do not appear to work at Prosper Oil & Gas. Accountant Martinez also found approximately \$648,005.42 in payments for automobile and airplane purchases, payments, and expenses. Specifically, Accountant Martinez found two large wire transfers to Ewing Automats, which deals in high-end vehicles such as Mercedes and BMW.

On March 2, 2010, the SEC filed civil suit against Alan May and Prosper Oil & 13. Gas in the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division. United States District Judge Sam A. Lindsay ordered that Prosper Oil & Gas and any assets of Alan May be placed into receivership. Judge Lindsay appointed Kelly Crawford, a private attorney from the law firm of Sheiff & Stone, to serve as Receiver for Prosper Oil & Gas and Alan May's assets.

PROSPER OIL & GAS CONTROLLER DAWN DANDRIDGE

Document 3

- 14. On March 3, 2010, Prosper Oil & Gas Controller Dawn Dandridge agreed to an interview by SA Wanda Fuentes and I by verbally waiving her Miranda Rights. Dandridge stated she holds a B.A in accounting and a M.B.A. from Webster University and has had previous accounting work experience. Dandridge was hired by Prosper Oil & Gas in November 2009 in response to an Internet advertisement. Dandridge stated that she issued checks at Alan May's request to investors, employees, and other people who had no current employment relationship to Prosper Oil & Gas, including Alan May's mother, Benjamin Wilson (former employee/friend of Alan May), Robert Nourse (former land man), and Cody Bonham (Alan May's partner/personal assistant). Dandridge stated that investor checks often would bounce because Prosper Oil & Gas' oil and gas revenue did not meet its payouts.
- Following my initial interview with Dandridge, she provided a written declaration 15. to the SEC. In her declaration, Dandridge stated that Prosper Oil & Gas, as a matter of

course, paid investors significantly more in distribution payments than it received in royalty income, and that Prosper Oil & Gas used investor funds to make up the difference between royalty income it received and the investor distributions it made. Dandridge also claimed that she believed Alan May intentionally directed Prosper Oil & Gas to use investor funds to pay investor distributions.

Document 3

COURT APPOINTED RECEIVER'S FINDINGS

On April 5, 2010, Receiver Kelly Crawford published his Preliminary Report to 16. the Court. Crawford concluded that Prosper Oil & Gas sold investors mineral interests that it did not own; oversold to investors mineral interests that it did own; and grossly overstated production revenue in order to sell mineral interests.

VICTIMS OF THE PROSPER OIL & GAS FRAUD -- INCLUDING JON POPE

- Reviewing the investor analysis provided by Kelly Crawford and Account 17. Martinez, I identified approximately 174 investors with Prosper Oil & Gas to date.
- 18. Investors were solicited to invest in Prosper Oil & Gas through classified advertisements Alan May placed in various business publications, including the Wall Street Journal and Barron's. The advertisements I reviewed contained a telephone number and email address utilized by Alan May.
- From February 2010 to April 2010, I interviewed investors James Bradford, Peggy 19. Hughes, Alan Auger, and Jon Pope; these individuals invested \$10,000, \$10,000, \$29,500, and \$141,500, respectively. These individuals received little or no returns on

their investments with Prosper Oil & Gas due to the fraudulent actions of Alan May. Each individual invested with Prosper Oil & Gas after receiving documentation regarding their oil royalty investment bearing the name of Alan May or Prosper Oil & Gas. Each investor was promised an investment return from Alan May and/or an employee of the company based off of operating revenue and not generated from other investor monies. Furthermore, one of the investors interviewed, Alan Auger, invested into the Coon Creek, Oklahoma lease, even though it turned out that Prosper Oil & Gas did not own the mineral interest rights it "sold" to Auger.

Document 3

- On January 26, 2010, SEC Accountant Martinez, SEC Attorney Jonathan Scott, 20. USSS SA Finley, and I conducted a telephonic interview of Jon Pope, president of Peoples State Bank of Kansas and an investor with Prosper Oil & Gas.
- 21. Pope invested a total of \$141,500 with Alan May between May 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, through six wire transfers of funds. These transfers are detailed in paragraph 25, below. All the wire transfers were at the direction of Alan May, via email, telephone, or fax.
- Pope stated that the money in his account was for retirement and he viewed the 22. purchases with Alan May as a way to increase his retirement. One of the purchases Pope considered making was interests in oil wells located in Louisiana. In a May 5, 2008, email, Alan May retracted the sale of the Louisiana oil wells because he was "not comfortable with the productions of the wells." A subsequent interview with the Texas

State Securities Board revealed that Alan May never owned the rights to the Louisiana oil wells that he had proposed selling to Pope, and Alan May was sued by James Jones, the rightful owner, after Jones found out that Alan May had sold royalties from the Louisiana oil wells on Ebay.com without completing the purchase of the oil royalties from Jones.

Document 3

- 23. Pope stated that he did receive approximately \$20,000 in royalty checks. Pope stated that the checks would be mailed to him sporadically and only after he called Alan May or Prosper Oil & Gas demanding his royalty check. Pope stated that all the deed royalty records were signed by Alan May.
- 24. Pope provided the SEC with a written declaration and stated that Alan May told him that the source of the royalty payments Pope received from Prosper Oil & Gas was royalty income from oil and gas production. Alan May never told Pope that part or all of the payments Pope received from Prosper Oil & Gas came from funds that the company collected from other investors — not from oil and gas revenue. In addition, Pope detailed some of the "lulling" activities taken by Alan May, including excuses given by Alan May for non-payment of royalties:
 - a. the oil-and-gas companies who were paying the royalties did so erratically;
 - b. the oil-and-gas companies were cutting staff;
 - c. Prosper moved offices and the royalty payment must have been set aside in the shuffle;
 - d. Alan May had changed secretaries and she failed to send out the royalty payment;

Document 3

- f. Alan May's daughter, Lauren, had became terminally ill in Boston (Lauren May is alive and well in Dallas).
- 25. The following table lists the investments made by Pope, via wire transfer, in the oil and gas royalties offered by Alan May and Prosper Oil & Gas. In actuality, as outlined above, Pope was "investing" in a Ponzi scheme orchestrated by Alan May in which investors were paid all or part of their "returns," if any, from funds received from other investors, rather than from the promised oil and gas revenues of Prosper Oil & Gas.

WIRE DATE	LEASE/WELL PURCHASED	WIRE	WIRE FROM POPE'S ACCOUNT	WIRE TO ALAN MAY'S ACCOUNT
5/1/2008	A.W. Huff-1	\$17,500	Peoples State Bank Account #1444 (Kansas)	E-Trade Account # 3672 (Virginia)
5/2/2008	Calhoun #2	\$15,000	Peoples State Bank Account #1444 (Kansas)	E-Trade Account # 3672 (Virginia)
6/3/2008	Billeaud #1	\$12,500	Peoples State Bank Account #1444 (Kansas)	Chase Bank Account #0028 (Texas)
6/5/2008	Vaughn Gas #1	\$9,000	Peoples State Bank Account #1444 (Kansas)	Chase Bank Account #0028 (Texas)
8/5/2008	Shelton Gas	\$37,500	Peoples State Bank Account #1444 (Kansas)	Century Account #1650 (Texas)
10/16/2008	Sprayberry	\$50,000	Entrust IRA Account # 8062 (Colorado)	Bank of America Account # 1585 (Texas)

TOTAL:

\$141,500

26. Based on the foregoing information, as well as previous training and experience, I believe there is probable cause to establish that on or about April 25, 2008 through on or about March 2, 2010, in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas, the defendant, ALAN TODD MAY, did, with intent to defraud, devise a scheme to cause interstate wire transfers of monetary funds from victim Jon Pope's bank/brokerage accounts to bank/brokerage accounts controlled by defendant ALAN TODD MAY, in violation of 18 U.S.C § 1343.

Document 3

Special Agent

United States Secret Service

UNIT**S**D STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, this the

United States District Court

NORTHERN	DISTRICT OF _	TEXAS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	.	
V.		WARRANT FOR ARREST
ALAN TODD MAY	•	CASE NUMBER: 3-10-MJ-172
To: The United States Marshal and any Authorized United States Offi	icer	
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMAND	DED to arrest ALA	AN TODD MAY
and bring him or her forthwith to the neare	est magistrate to a	nswer a
COMPLAINT	•	
charging him with (brief description of offe	ense):	
Wire Fraud,	•	
in violation of Title 18, United States Code	e, Section 1343.	
JEFF KAPLAN		States Magistrate Judge
Name of Issuing Officer		States Magistrate Judge Straing Officer
MALLILLIN MARK	May 13	, 2010 at Dallas, Texas
Signature of Issuing Officer	Date an	d Location
b	· •	
Bail fixed at \$	by	•
	1	Name of Judicial Officer
	RETURN	
This warrant was received and executed with the arres	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	lefendant at
DATE RECEIVED NAME AND TITLE OF ARREST	TING OFFICER	SIGNATURE OF ARRESTING OFFICER
DATE OF ARREST	•	